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Dublin's Green Way

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Dublin's green way

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DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL:An economic development plan for north Dublin looks set to deliver great benefits to local communities, the economy and the environment

THE ECONOMIC development plan for the greater Dublin region envisages the development of three “innovation corridors” radiating from the city core. These corridors are designed to be engines of economic growth and job creation over the next decade and beyond. To the south there is a corridor taking in TCD and UCD; to the west a corridor stretching across the Naas Road to Citywest and the surrounding area.

Perhaps the most exciting of all three, however, is the northern corridor, specifically focused on the emerging green economy. An tSli Ghlas – the Green Way – has been initiated by an alliance of businesses, academic institutions and local authorities including Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, Dublin Airport Authority, Dublin City University (DCU), Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council and North Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

The proposed corridor runs along the route of the proposed Metro North and takes in DIT’s new campus at Grangegorman, the DCU campus, the Ballymun area and Dublin Airport. “The vision for this project is to create an internationally recognised green economic zone where innovation in various aspects of the green economy will be promoted by the partners,” says Michael Stubbs, assistant city manager with Dublin City Council.

“It is a natural corridor,” he points out. “We will have Luas line BXD connecting beside the Metro at Grangegorman and there is already a strong relationship between DIT and DCU, which are working closely with each other on a range of research projects. Also, both have very good entrepreneurial programmes that deliver start-up companies. Ballymun Regeneration has been very focused on the whole green economy and cleantech (clean technology) area and the Dublin Airport Authority is also looking to this area for the future development of the airport lands. Fingal County Council has included the corridor in its development plan – it is now part of the overall economic action plan for the region.”

The Green Way was originally conceived in response to the 2009 report of the Government’s High-Level Action Group on Green Enterprise which stated that Ireland needed to “develop one or more green zones in order to create an environment that can support the development of green enterprise and be used to market Ireland overseas”.

“We wish to create an internationally recognised green economic zone and position Ireland as a leader in the world’s most exciting and rapidly growing sector,” says Tony Boyle, chairman of the Steering Committee for An tSlí Ghlas. “The potential of this project, which builds on our existing assets and infrastructure, is that it can assist in the transformation of our economy.”

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